दृष्टि से घरेलु उपलब्धता को बढ़ाने के लिए नीति के अनुसार इस्पात की सभी मदों का निर्बाध रूप से आयात करने की अनुमति है। विगत 2 वर्षों में इस्पात का कई मदों पर आयात शुल्क में कमी की गई। तथापि, सरकारी क्षेत्र के इस्पात संयंत्र घरेलु उपभोक्ताओं की आवश्यकताओं को पूरा करने के लिए निरन्तर प्रयास कर रहें हैं। इन प्रयासों में प्रौद्योगिकी का उन्नयन, उत्पादकता और उत्पादन में सुधार, उत्पादों का गुणवत्ता में सुधार करना तथा उपभोक्ताओं की आवश्यकता के अनुरूप उत्पाद भिन्न को अपनाना शामिल है।

Setting up of Aluminium Plants during Ninth Plan

*75. SHRI RAHASBIHARI BARIK: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a proposal to set up some Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country during Ninth Plan;

(b) if so, the States where these plants would be set up;

(c) whether any such Aluminium/Alumina plant is going to be set up in Orissa;

(d) if so, the sites selected therefor; and

(e) the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) The Government have no proposal to set up any new Aluminium/Alumina Plants in the country in public/joint sector during the Ninth Five Year Plan. As per the industrial policy, the aluminium industry has been exempted from the provision of compulsory licensing with a view to encourage private investment in the aluminium sector.

(b) to (e) Does not arise in view of reply to part (a) above.

वाहन विनिर्माता कंपनियां

*76. प्रो॰ राम बख्श सिंह वर्मा:
श्रीमती मालती शर्मा:

क्या उद्योग मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) देश में वाहन निर्माता कंपनियां कितनी है और उनका ब्यौरा क्या है;

(ख) गत तीन वर्षों के दौरान प्रत्येक वाहन निर्माता कंपनी द्वारा वर्ष-वार कितने-कितने वाहनों के निर्माण का लक्ष्य रखा गया था; और

(ग) क्या प्रत्येक वाहन निर्माण कंपनी ने लक्ष्य प्राप्त कर लिए है?

उद्योग मंत्री (श्री सिकन्दर बख्त): (क) देश में 29 वाहन निर्माता कंपनियां है। इस संबंध में ब्यौरा नीचे दिया गया है:-

1. यात्री कार और बहु-उपयोगों के वाहन निर्माता	13
2. वाणिज्यिक वाहन निर्माता	08
3. दुपहिया निर्माता	12
4. तिपहिया निर्माता	04

(कुछ कंपनियां एक से अधिक मद की निर्माता है)

(ख) और (ग) सरकार द्वारा वाहनों का विनिर्माण किए जाने हेतु वर्ष-वार कोई लक्ष्य निर्धारित नहीं किए गए है और वाहनों का निर्माण किया जाना मांग और आपूर्ति की विपणन संचालित शक्तियों पर आधारित है। 1993-97 के वर्षों में आटोमोबाईल में लगभग 20% की औसतन दर से ऊधमी वृद्धि हुई है। वर्ष 1997-98 में मुख्यत: अर्थ-व्यवस्था में सामान्य गिरावट होने के कारण मांग में मंदी और इसके परिणामस्वरूप उत्पादन में कमी होने की स्थिति देखने में आयी है।

Clearance of Sukhinda Chrome-Ore Mines

*77. SHRI AMAR SINGH: Will the Minister of MINES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government had received any request from Government of Orissa for the clearance of Sukhinda Chrome-Ore Mines;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the action taken thereon by Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STEEL AND MINES (SHRI RAMESH BAIS): (a) to (c) The State Govt. of Orissa had sent a proposal dated 24th June, 1997 to the Ministry of Mines seeking approval for the grant of mining lease for chrome ore in Sukhindra Valley of Orissa over 50% of the balance area of 855.476 hects. which had become available for grant after the second renewal of the mining lease of TISCO for a reduced area, in favour of four parties, i.e. Indian Metal and Ferro Alloys (MFA)/Indian Charge

Chrome Ltd. (ICCL), Ispat Alloys, Ferro Alloys Corporation Limited (FACOR) and Jindal Strips. The proposal was for grant of only 50% of the area of 855.476 hects. whereas the Central Government's Order dated 17th August, 1995 had requested the State Govt. to send the proposal for grant of mining lease in favour of the aforesaid four parties for the total area of 855.476 hects.

While the aforesaid proposal of the State Govt. dated 24th June, 1997 was under examination, Shri M.C. Mahapatra, the then Joint Secretary in this Ministry who was handling the matter, died on 27th September, 1997, allegedly as a result of jumping from the office building of Shastri Bhawan. The police took up the investigations of the circumstances relating to the death of Shri Mahapatra. Initially the matter was being investigated by the Delhi Police and subsequently by the Crime Branch of the Delhi Police. Later on, the investigations were entrusted to the Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) by the Ministry of Home Affairs. The entire original record in respect of the proposal for grant of mining lease of Sukhindra Chrome Ore mines have been taken over by the CBI and any further action in the matter regarding consideration of the aforesaid proposal for grant of mining lease can be taken up only after return of the original records by the CBI who are still investigating the matter.

Subsequently, another proposal dated 30th March, 1998 was received from the State Govt. of Orissa seeking the views of the Central Govt. on their proposal to undertake mining operations of Chrome Ore over an area of 190.80 hects. (the same area which was earlier recommended by the State Govt. for grant of mining lease in favour of M/s. IMFA/ICCL) in Sukhindra Valley under Section 4(3) of the Mines and Minerals (Regulation and Development) Act, 1957 (MMR&D Act) and to engage M/s. IMFA/ICCL as an agent of the State Govt. to undertake mining operations in the aforesaid area under Rule 75(2) of the Mineral Concession Rules, 1960. Since the proposal of the State Govt. was not found to be consistent with the provisions of the MMR&D Act, particularly Section 4(3) of the Act *ibid*, which allows only the State Govt. to undertake mining and does not recognise mining operations by the State Govt. through an agent. The proposal of the State Govt. has been returned to them on 23rd April, 1998 conveying Central Government's views to the effect that the proposal is not consistent with the provisions of the MMR&D Act.

Rehabilitation of Mentally Impaired Persons

*78. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE & EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the steps taken for the rehabilitation of the mentally impaired persons since the enactment of the Disabilities Act, 1995 and for helping them to live a life with dignity.

(b) whether the invocation that used to be frequently played on electronic media, calling upon the people "help them, while assessing their right to live with dignity", has since been stopped, displaying lack of Government concern about their plight; and

(c) the steps proposed to be taken to secure these disabled persons their right to live with dignity?

THE MINISTRY OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SMT. MANEKA GANDHI): (a) The Ministry of Welfare proposes to introduce a Bill for setting up a National Trust for the Welfare of Persons with Autism Cerebral Palsy, Mental Retardation and Multiple Disability.

(b) The information is being collected from the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting.

(c) The National Trust when set up will assist through providing respite care and family care, day care services besides residential hospitals and residential homes. It will also assist in promoting independent living in the community such as creating a conductive environment, counselling and training of family members, adult training unit, individual and group homes. The Trust would assist self help group of persons with disabilities to advocate for the realisation of their rights. The Trust will set up local level committees to grant approval for guardianship.